1935 Graf Zeppelin Mail Service

In 1935 the Graf Zeppelin airmail routes and procedures were integrated into the routes and procedures of the Deutsche Lufthansa South Atlantic airmail service.



1935 Graf Zeppelin Schedule - Sixteen flights every two weeks from April to November.

Mail Exchange at Larache - *Outbound:* Deutsche Lufthansa flew late postings from Stuttgart to meet the zeppelin at Larache in Spanish Morocco, where the mail was loaded into the zeppelin using long ropes - Mail which arrived on time was loaded at Friedrichshafen.

Return: Mail was dropped at Larache and flown by faster DLH land planes to Europe.

Temporary Loss of Letter Mail Franchise - From July to October all letter mail was flown by DLH - The zeppelin carried only on-board postings and heavier non-letter classes of mail.

Resumption of Letter Mail Franchise - The Graf Zeppelin flew letter mail again from mid-October until the end of her flying season in late November - She few three shuttle flights across the South Atlantic while the DLH catapult ships were being serviced.

New Cachet Code Letters - A new metal device for Stuttgart was used briefly with letter "d" for foreign mail before being changed to "e" and put in general use. An experimental rubber cachet with letter "e" was used for a short time at Berlin - By May the distribution was:

☆ Stuttgart	b Friedrichshafen	d On Board
a Berlin	c Friedrichshafen	e Stuttgart

Quantities of Mail - Increased to about 40,000 letters per crossing.

	Friedr.	Recife	Rio
Zeppelin	6 Apr	9 Apr	
Condor		9 Apr	10 Apr

FIRST 1935 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

Switzerland
Letter to a bank in Rio - Postage CHF 2.00 = 1.70 airmail, .30 surface.

Arrived in time to be loaded into the Graf Zeppelin at Friedrichshafen.

Standard Cachet
The same German airmail cachets used in 1934 continued in use in 1935.



SECOND 1935 RETURN FLIGHT

Mail exchange at Seville - High winds at Larache

	Recife	Seville	Stuttgart
Zeppelin	26 Apr	30 Apr	
DLH		30 Apr	1 May



Special Cachet for Tourist Fair - Used in place of the standard cachet on part of the mail posted at Rio while the fair was being held - Postage 4$200 airmail.



Scarce Argentine Meter Franking - Bank arrival marking confirms transport by zeppelin - Postage 1.00 peso airmail, .15 surface - Meter franking of Argentine zeppelin mail is seldom seen.

THIRD 1935 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

	Stuttgart	Larache	Recife
DLH	5 May	5 May	
Zeppelin		5 May	7 May



New Metal Cachet with Temporary Letter "d" - Used Only on Foreign Mail at Stuttgart
- Scarlet cachet used for a few weeks on foreign mail delivered to Stuttgart just before the flight to Larache departed - Postage 8s airmail (2 x 4s per half ounce beyond Brazil).

A different cachet from either the normal Stuttgart "☆" or the lilac-red rubber on board "d".



Scarlet "d"
Metal



Lilac-red "d"
Rubber

THIRD 1935 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

	Berlin	Stuttgart	Larache	Recife
DLH	4 May	5 May	5 May	
Zeppelin			5 May	7 May



DLH flights to meet the zeppelin at Larache



Pneumatic mail receiving mark with minutes in time.



Red Crayon "C2" for Pneumatic Mail within Berlin - Cachet Code Letter "a" for Berlin - Destination office number "C2" and minutes in postmark times show delivery by pneumatic tube to the Berlin Central Post Office - Special flight from Berlin to Stuttgart to catch the flight to Larache, where mail was transferred to the zeppelin - Postage RM 1.25 airmail, .25 surface.

FLOWN ON TWO ZEPPELIN FLIGHTS

	Recife	Friedr.
Third Return	10 May	14 May

	Friedr.	Recife
Fourth Outbound	19 May	21 May



On Board Postmarks:

11 May 1935 (Third return flight)

20 May 1935 (Fourth outbound flight)

Passenger Mail Postmarked on Two South America Flights - Written and postmarked on board the third return flight to Europe.

Addressed to Brazil and held on board for delivery by the next zeppelin flight to South America.

	Stuttgart	Larache	Recife
DLH	19 May	19 May	
Zeppelin		19 May	21 May



Cachet with Code Letter "☆" for Flight from Stuttgart - Late posting flown by Deutsche Lufthansa to Larache for pick-up by the zeppelin - Postage RM 1.50 airmail beyond Brazil, .25 surface.



First Use of Cachet with New Code Letter "e" for Flight from Stuttgart - Introduced in late May 1935 to supplement the "☆" cachet for flights from Stuttgart - Late posting flown by DLH to Larache for pick-up by the zeppelin - Postage RM 1.50 airmail beyond Brazil, .25 surface.

FOURTH 1935 RETURN FLIGHT

	Recife	Larache	Stuttgart
Zeppelin	24 May	27 May	
DLH		27 May	28 May



Charged Postage Due in Germany - Five times rate paid on six times weight letter - 21$000 (5 x 4$200) paid, 25$200 (6 x 4$200) required, 8$400 (double the deficiency) due, equivalent to RM 3.00 - Underpayment first detected by German Post Office (blue "6 x").



Brazil - Meter Franking - Postage 4$200 airmail.

1935 Graf Zeppelin Mail Service

FIFTH 1935 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

	Berlin	Stuttgart	Larache	Recife
DLH	1 Jun	1 Jun	1 Jun	
Zeppelin			1 Jun	4 Jun





Berlin transit marking for connecting flight

Experimental Rubber Cachet with Small Code Letter "e" used at Berlin - Dutch mail flown on connecting flight Berlin to Larache, where the mail was transferred to the zeppelin - Postage .80 airmail, .15 registration, .12½ surface.

FIFTH 1935 RETURN FLIGHT

Mail exchange at Lisbon - Bad weather at Larache

	Recife	Lisbon	Stuttgart
Zeppelin	7 Jun	10 Jun	
DLH		10 Jun	11 Jun



standard cachet in Spanish

Uruguay - Box with weight and airmail fee - Postage for 5 grams .75 peso airmail, .12 surface.

SIXTH 1935 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

	Stuttgart	Larache	Recife
DLH	16 Jun	16 Jun	
Zeppelin		16 Jun	18 Jun



Poland - Cachet "e" for Flight from Stuttgart - Late posting flown by Deutsche Lufthansa from Stuttgart to Larache to meet the zeppelin enroute to Brazil.

SEVENTH 1935 RETURN FLIGHT

	Recife	Larache	Stuttgart
Zeppelin	5 Jul	8 Jul	
DLH		8 Jul	9 Jul



Coffee Sample Bag - Weight 175 to 200 grams - Postage on back 33$600 = 8 x 4$200 per 25 grams - reduced rate for sample merchandise.

1935 Graf Zeppelin Mail Service

SEVENTH 1935 RETURN FLIGHT

	Recife	Larache	Stuttgart
Zeppelin	5 Jul	8 Jul	
DLH		8 Jul	9 Jul

Seventeen Times Weight - 80 to 85 grams - Postage 71$400 = 17 x 4$200 per five grams.



Temporary Loss of Letter Mail Franchise - From July to mid-October all letter mail was flown by DLH - The zeppelin carried only on-board postings and heavier non-letter classes of mail.



Passenger Card from a "Non-Postal" Flight - Thirteenth 1935 return flight.



Non-Letter Mail Flown by Zeppelin

"Samples No Value" - Weight 13.5 grams - Postage RM 1.35 = 1.25 per 25 grams airmail, .10 surface.

Routed "via Friedrichshafen" by postal clerk for zeppelin flight.

Thirteenth 1935 outbound flight.

	Friedr.	Recife	Rio
Zeppelin	9 Sep	12 Sep	13 Sep

Papierprobe (Samples of Paper)
Mischsendung (Mixed Mailing Class)



Heavy Item Flown on a "Non-Postal" Flight - The zeppelin flew non-letter mail, such as printed matter, samples without value, commercial papers, or mixed mailings during the time Deutsche Lufthansa was carrying letter mail across the South Atlantic.

Reduced Rates for Mixed Mailing Class - Mixed mailings were combinations of heavier articles, here probably printed matter and samples of paper stock - Postage RM 1.75 = 1.50 per 25 grams airmail, .25 minimum surface for a mixed mailing.

FIFTEENTH 1935 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

	Stuttgart	Larache	Recife
DLH	23 Oct	24 Oct	
Zeppelin		24 Oct	26 Oct

Resumption of Letter Mail Franchise - The Graf Zeppelin flew letter mail again from late October until the end of her flying season in November.



Austria - Cachet "☆" for Connecting Flight from Stuttgart - Business card regarding money sent - Postage 3.00 schilling airmail, .35 surface card.

SIXTEENTH 1935 OUTBOUND FLIGHT

	Stuttgart	Larache	Recife
DLH	6 Nov	7 Nov	
Zeppelin		8 Nov	10 Nov



Cachet "☆" for Flight from Stuttgart - Flown from Stuttgart to meet the zeppelin at Larache in Spanish Morocco - Postage RM 1.25 airmail, .25 surface.

SHUTTLE FLIGHTS BETWEEN BRAZIL AND WEST AFRICA

Shuttled mail across the South Atlantic without carrying passengers or returning to Europe, while DLH catapult ships were out of service - *Eastbound Mail:* Dropped at an airfield in Gambia and delivered by DLH to Europe - *Westbound Mail:* Raised into the zeppelin by long ropes at Gambia and flown to Brazil.

	Recife	Gambia
Zeppelin	15 Nov	16 Nov



Uruguay - By zeppelin shuttle from Recife to Gambia, and by DLH to Stuttgart - Rate .50 peso airmail, .12 surface.

FIRST 1935 EASTBOUND SHUTTLE FLIGHT



	Gambia	Natal
Zeppelin	16 Nov	17 Nov

FIRST 1935 WESTBOUND SHUTTLE FLIGHT



Reduced Postage for "MUSTER ohne WERT" (Samples without Value) - By DLH from Stuttgart to Gambia, by zeppelin shuttle flight from Gambia to Natal, near Recife - Weight 52 grams - Postage RM 3.75 airmail (3 x 1.25 per 25 grams), .10 surface.

SECOND 1935 EASTBOUND SHUTTLE

	Recife	Gambia
Zeppelin	22 Nov	24 Nov



Brazil Meter Franking - Dropped at Gambia and flown to Europe by DLH - Postage 4$200 airmail.

SECOND 1935 WESTBOUND SHUTTLE

	Gambia	Maceio
Zeppelin	24 Nov	27 Nov





Dropped at Maceio during a Brazilian Revolution - Upon returning from Gambia, the Graf Zeppelin was forced to remain in the air for three days because of unrest at Recife - On the second day the mail was dropped at Maceio, further down the coast, and flown south by Condor from there.

THIRD 1935 EASTBOUND SHUTTLE

	Recife	Gambia
Zeppelin	29 Nov	30 Nov



Meters Plus Stamp - Dropped in Gambia and flown by the DLH to Europe - Postage 4$200 airmail.

THIRD 1935 WESTBOUND SHUTTLE

	Gambia	Recife
Zeppelin	30 Nov	2 Dec



Czechoslovakia - By airplane via Prague, Berlin and Stuttgart to Gambia - Picked up by Graf Zeppelin and shuttled to Brazil - Postage 15.00 koruny airmail, 2.50 surface.

SIXTEENTH 1935 RETURN FLIGHT

MAIL DELAYED BY BRAZILIAN REVOLUTION

	Recife	Seville	Stuttgart
Zeppelin	6 Dec	9 Dec	
DLH		9 Dec	9 Dec

In late November 1935, revolution delayed the transfer of mail from southern Brazil to the Condor connection at Rio - Mail that should have been flown by the Graf Zeppelin on 29 November was carried by her on 6 December instead.





Tall Cachet
64 by 17 mm.

Cachet Reads "Delayed by Unrest in Brazil" - Delayed on its route north from São Paulo to Rio de Janeiro, this letter missed the 29 November zeppelin departure, and was flown by the zeppelin to Europe one week later.



Long Cachet - 84 by 10 mm - Three sizes of cachet are known, apparently made from type obtained at a stationery supply shop.

SIXTEENTH 1935 RETURN FLIGHT

MAIL DELAYED BY BRAZILIAN REVOLUTION

	Recife	Seville	Stuttgart
Zeppelin	6 Dec	9 Dec	
DLH		9 Dec	9 Dec



Small Cachet Struck Twice - (62 by 12 mm) - Postage 59.00 pesos airmail (7 x 8.40 per gram = 58.80 rounded up to nearest peso), 2.50 surface, 2.00 registration (.50 airmail, 4.50 ordinary postage, registration label on back).



Chile - Delayed Mail - Small Cachet - 62 by 12 mm - The Brazilian revolution also delayed mail from nations whose mail was routed through southern Brazil - Postage 27.00 pesos airmail (7.50+6.50+6.50+6.50 quadruple weight), 1.30 surface, 1.30 registration.